'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, and the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. The Ministry of Tourism, therefore, asked State Governments and Union Territories to deploy tourist police at places frequented by tourists and ten States have already deployed tourist police at important tourist destinations. In a recent meeting with Secretaries of Tourism of States and Union Territories, it was emphasized that the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/ Union Territories must ensure the same.

Sanction of fund for holy town of Sultanpur Lodhi

2456. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned any funds for the holy town of Sultanpur Lodhi where the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak, attained enlightenment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has also sanctioned any funds for other holy places in Punjab to promote religious tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 94.12 lakh to the Government of Punjab for development of tourist facilities at Sultanpur Lodhi. The components of the project include improvement of the surroundings, parking facilities, toilet blocks, signage, Information Kiosk/rain shelter, drinking water fountain, refurbishment of the monuments.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism also sanctioned Rs. 5942.71 lakh to the Government of Punjab for 30 projects for the development and promotion of tourism including development of infrastructure at holy places in Punjab during Tenth and current Five Year Plan.

Tourist inflow in the country

2457. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn any projections for the tourist inflow in the country in the next financial year in view of the current turmoil in the global markets;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the strategy planned to meet and at the same time encourage the tourist inflow?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in 2008 is expected to be 5.57 million presuming that the growth rate in FTAs observed in 2007 over 2006 remains same in 2008 also.

The important efforts being made by the Government to encourage tourist inflow include integrated development of tourist infrastructure at tourist circuits and destinations, growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels, augmentation of air capacity, enhancing availability of skilled manpower, according greater focus in emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North-East Asia and South-East Asia, and international publicity campaigns through the electronic and print media.